

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Fisheries Division

Goals and Measurable Objectives

The following figure shows the department base year and budgeted biennium goals and performance measures that are associated with the proposed 2009 biennium HB 2 budget.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks Fisheries Division		
Measurable Objectives for the 2009 Biennium		
Goal	Measurable Objectives	Current status of Measures
Provide a diversity of quality angling opportunities through management of self-sustaining wild fisheries and the responsible use of hatchery reared fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain number of angler days spent fishing in Montana at 2.5 million or greater and number of fishing licenses sold at 400,000 or greater • Hatchery system will produce and stock 50 million sport fish annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sold 2.5 million fishing licenses in license year 2006. • Supported 400,000 angler days in license year 2006. • Seeking FTE and budget necessary to maintain these efforts (see Butte biologist, Ft Peck Hatchery and Fish technicians below)
Protect, maintain and restore native fish populations, life cycles and genetic diversity and continue to provide angling opportunities wherever possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new fish species listed under the Endangered Species Act. • Maintain angling opportunities for bull trout at Swan Lake, Hungry Horse and Koocanusa reservoirs and South Fork of Flathead River. • Protect at least 3 more populations of Westslope and Yellowstone cutthroat trout from competition or hybridization each year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petitions to list Westslope and Yellowstone cutthroat trout were rejected. • Efforts to restore pallid sturgeon passage on the Yellowstone are in progress. • FWS approved bull trout harvest fishery. • Requesting permanent funding for bull trout westslope restoration projects and staff.
Preserve and protect aquatic habitats through implementation of Montana Streambed and Land Preservation Act (310) and Montana Stream Protection Act (124).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete review and issuance of one thousand five hundred 310 and five hundred 124 permits annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently completed 1,500 - 310 and 500 - 124 permits. • Seeking FTE and budget necessary to maintain and increase these efforts (see Butte biologist and fish technicians below).
Maintain existing levels of public access for fishing and water-based recreation on state waters and increase levels of public access on select state waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually increase number of Fishing Access Sites by an average of two priority sites per year • Maintain at least 15 private land access sites through the Fishing Access Enhancement Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites for acquisition have been prioritized. Dedicated funding for acquisition should be increased next time the license fee is considered. • Have 14 contracts with private landowners.
Fort Peck Hatchery Improve the availability and quality of warm and cold-water fishing opportunities by producing hatchery fish from Ft Peck hatchery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually produce 25,000,000 walleye fry; 3,500,000 walleye fingerlings; 200,000 Chinook salmon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hatchery is completed and fully staffed. Fort Peck Hatchery is currently providing walleye and Chinook salmon. • Requesting restored authority to maintain production.

<p>Butte Biologist and Technician Provide better management coverage for the most popular blue ribbon fisheries in the state and better service to the Butte/Silver Bow and Beaverhead Conservation Districts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop annual work plan by July 1, 2007. • Hire new biologist and seasonal technician in Butte by September 2007. • Process all 310 and 124 permits for the area within 60 days of receipt. <p>April 2007 – Allocate the new FTE for FY08 May 2007 – Complete position descriptions for the new positions; classified by Human Resources August 2007 – Positions advertised, selection process completed September 2007 – performance agreement developed and signed March 2007 – Probationary performance review, monitoring of performance criteria.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dillon biologist has largest area in western Montana. This includes Red Rock, Beaverhead, Ruby and Big Hole rivers plus Clark canyon and Ruby reservoirs. Splitting these duties will result in better service.
<p>Integrate Future Fisheries FTE into the base budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 4 projects annually to help ensure the persistence of Yellowstone and Westslope cutthroat trout. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to implement the cutthroat MOU/conservation strategy recently renewed. • Biologists are currently fulfilling these duties in modified FTE positions. They are under taking projects in Central Montana to restore Yellowstone and cutthroat trout. • Work with private landowners to develop, fund and implement projects. • Work with federal land managers to develop, fund and implement conservation projects.
<p>Enhance data collection, public service and employee safety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 new seasonal technicians hired and assigned to field crews by August 2007. • 10 additional field surveys completed in FY 2008 and 2009. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biologists on the lower Yellowstone and Missouri rivers have limited technical help. • Higher risk of injury or death of employees. • FTE requested.

Goals and Measurable Objectives

The following figure shows the department base year and budgeted biennium goals and performance measures that are associated with the proposed 2009 biennium HB 2 budget.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks Law Enforcement Division		
Measurable Objectives for the 2009 Biennium		
Goal	Measurable Objectives	Current status of Measures
Reduce the number and impact of major wildlife crimes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hire 2 more Regional Investigators - Conduct at least 150 in-depth investigations in parts of the state not currently served by March 2008. - Submit at least 50 major cases for prosecution each year. - Increase restitution payments by violators to \$200,000 per year by 2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 regional investigators have been involved in over 400 cases including 33 felonies and over 300 misdemeanors. - Demonstrated the degree of unlawful activity aimed towards the state's fish, wildlife and parks resources and need for this level of law enforcement work.
Enhance intra- and inter-agency communication and cooperation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fund a radio dispatcher at MT Highway Patrol. - Implement formal coordination agreement for TIPMONT program with MHP by August 1, 2007. - Develop formal coordination agreements with MHP for implementation and operation of radio systems by January 2009. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MHP handles off-hour TIPMONT and dispatches various calls to FWP wardens across the state. - Informal relationship. - Coordination of efforts with Statewide Interoperability Initiative - ongoing. - Links to other cooperative efforts such as Interoperability and agency maintenance partnerships.
Reduce vandalism and resource damage on State Trust Lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and prioritize problem areas/parcels by August 1, 2007 - Make 500 public contacts on DNRC lands each year. - Implement a public education campaign by September 1, 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DNRC has no direct law enforcement authority. - Significant resource damage to trust lands in certain areas due to low level of enforcement presence.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hire 2 new FWP wardens to patrol state land by July 30, 2007. -Prevent any future DEQ-ordered clean-up costs to DNRC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DNRC violations are handled by FWP in the course of other duties. - Enforcement handled by local law enforcement depending on availability and priority.
<p>Increase compliance with OHV laws and reduce impacts of OHV use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate efforts with USFS, BLM and DNRC to identify problem areas of illegal off-road vehicle use by late summer, 2007. - Increase the number of saturation patrols to reduce off-road violations in problem areas, during high use times beginning with 2008 hunting seasons (September.) - Initiate coordinated education program with state and federal land management/resource agencies to promote lawful and ethical use of OHV's by beginning of 2007 general rifle season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Huge growth of ATV use in Montana, especially during hunting season. -Significant public concern for safety and resource protection.. -Little funding is dedicated to OHV enforcement. -Limited educational materials, campaigns and promotions regarding compliance. -Federal and state land/resource managers are beginning to enter into partnerships to address this issue.

GOALS AND MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES

The following figure show the department base year and budgeted biennium goals and performance measures that are associated with the proposed 2009 biennium HB 2 budget.

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks Wildlife Division		
Measurable Objectives for the 2009 Biennium		
Goal	Measurable Objectives	Current Status of Measures
Management Expand our knowledge of wildlife distribution and trends, and refine population survey protocols for important wildlife species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize additional survey and inventory funds to maintain expanded survey and inventory efforts at levels at least equal to FY2007 efforts (quantity and quality of surveys). By December 2008, develop statistically valid monitoring protocol for sage grouse, and complete a pilot project to determine feasibility and cost of implementing such a statistically rigorous monitoring protocol for sage grouse. Develop protocols and implement surveys for priority prairie species such as mountain plovers and burrowing owls using State Wildlife Grants funding. Complete black bear DNA study to determine population size and sustainable harvest levels for black bears by completing black bear hair snaring in at least one additional satellite area by the end of FY08. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded survey efforts in FY06 and FY07 for deer, elk, moose, sheep, goats, antelope, and sage grouse. Developed wildlife game survey priorities for FY08-09 Prioritized species with greatest conservation needs. Developing projects to address conservation and S&I priorities identified in the Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Requested State Wildlife Grants authority + matching funds. Completed the 4th and 5th years of the Black Bear DNA study – study is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009. Requested funds and FTE to complete black bear study.
Management Utilize harvest to manage wildlife populations at levels that balance the biological needs and capabilities of the wildlife species and their habitat with wildlife-related recreation and tolerance of private landowners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin direct data entry of all phone survey questionnaires following the 2007 hunting season to enable completion of hunter harvest surveys by June of each year. Utilize hunter harvest data, survey and inventory data, and public input to develop biennial hunting regulations in 2008 for Commission approval by February 2008. Develop biennial trapping regulations by August 2008. Facilitate at least 40 public meetings across the state between December 2007 and February 2008 to solicit and discuss hunting regulation recommendations from the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing elk and mule deer management plans. Hunter harvest survey methods evaluated by WMI in 2006. WMI recommendations being implemented, including direct data entry, as a pilot in 2006-07 (for 2006 seasons). Identified needs based on 2006 season pilot, and requested funds to automate hunter harvest surveys. Check station, hunter harvest and wildlife and habitat survey data being collected and analyzed for use in 2008 season setting processes.

<p>Management</p> <p>Proactively address human safety - wildlife conflicts to reduce direct conflicts, especially with black bears and mountain lions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct 300 site visits in FY08 and FY09 for outreach with homeowners in areas where black bear and mountain lion conflicts are increasing. ▪ In the Flathead, reduce the ratio of bears having to be trapped/relocated per site visit from 1997-2006 average of 17% to less than 12% by July 2009. ▪ Conduct a minimum of 10 outreach programs in the Flathead area covering issues such as proper waste disposal, how to eliminate bear attractants and other ways to avoid wildlife/human conflict. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with Comm. Ed. Division to develop outreach materials and messages. ▪ Responding to calls as possible, and reacting to immediate threats. ▪ In 2005, R1 received 554 calls about nuisance black bear that resulted in 213 site visits and 25 black bear captures. 1997-2006-average is 964 calls; 321 site visits; and 55 black bear captures.
<p>Habitat</p> <p>Perpetuate and protect important habitats on which wildlife depends</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilizing existing and other grant programs, conserve through conservation easement or lease at least 5,000 acres (during the biennium) of the following priority habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sagebrush/Grassland ○ Montane Forest ○ Wetland/Riparian ▪ Monitor 37 existing conservation easements per year to ensure compliance with easement provisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementing Habitat Montana program, including HB526, Upland Game Bird Enhancement, sheep auction, and Migratory Bird Stamp programs ▪ Requesting increased authority for Upland Game and Migratory Bird programs for 2009 biennium. ▪ Requesting increased authority for Goat and Sheep auction programs for 2009 biennium. ▪ Seeking additional habitat conservation funding through Forest Legacy, HCP acquisition, and Landowner Incentive Programs. ▪ Identified Milk River and Big Hole River corridors as focus areas for habitat conservation. ▪ Requesting authority for State Wildlife Grants (SWiG) that can be applied towards implementation of habitat priorities identified in the Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

<p>Habitat</p> <p>Cooperatively conserve and enhance habitats on private, state, and federal lands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate on area working groups (e.g., Elkhorns, Devils Kitchen, MO River Breaks, Madison Valley Ranchlands) as requested by those groups, and provide technical expertise associated with wildlife management issues. ▪ Provide technical review of state and federal MEPA/NEPA documents and provide recommendations to minimize or mitigate for potential impacts on wildlife and their habitat within comment period deadlines. ▪ Provide technical review and recommendations about proposed developments and planning guidelines to local governments ▪ Provide private landowner technical assistance and resources to maintain or enhance wildlife habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife Division staff review and provide input on numerous land use proposals including timber sales, road management, subdivision review, and energy development. ▪ FWP staff assists with development of grazing systems for WMAs and Conservation Easements. ▪ FWP Staff are currently participating in numerous working groups and technical committees.
<p>Research</p> <p>Evaluate management techniques and expand our knowledge of wildlife biology and ecological relationships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete black bear study by 2009, including collection and analysis of DNA from one additional area. ▪ Improve criteria FWP uses to manage harvest of black bears in MT by 2010. ▪ Complete wolf-ungulate interaction investigations in Region 3 and prepare final report by December 2008. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requesting funding/FTE to complete the black bear study. ▪ Other research and management evaluation projects are underway
<p>Technical Assistance</p> <p>Assist with surveillance of major wildlife health issues and provide laboratory analysis of carcasses and tissues to determine health status and causes of death.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Analyze up to 300 tissue samples/carcasses each year to determine cause of death and/or health status. ▪ Provide herd health screening of at least two herds of Big Horn Sheep. ▪ Collect up to 1,000 waterfowl or waterfowl cloacal samples per year for analysis of Avian Influenza. ▪ Analyze at least 1,000 deer and elk brain tissue samples per year for detection of Chronic Wasting Disease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signed contracts with USDA and USFWS for avian influenza surveillance. ▪ Ongoing CWD monitoring in partnership with USDA/APHIS and USFWS ▪ Monitoring Big Horn Sheep herd health as part of ongoing trapping and relocation work. ▪ Cooperating with USGS on Chronic Wasting Disease study in Region 7 ▪ Analyze tissue samples and carcasses as requested to determine cause of death or health status (e.g., parasite load).

~~EXHIBIT~~

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DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
Communication and Education Division

Goals and Measurable Objectives

The following figure shows the department base year and budgeted biennium goals and performance measures that are associated with the proposed 2009 biennium HB 2 budget.

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Communication and Education		
Measurable Objectives for the 2009 Biennium		
Goal	Measurable Objectives	Current status of Measures
PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGES – Provide safe and accessible public shooting ranges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All appropriated funds are granted to range project sponsors with a 1:1 match.• No net reduction in the number of ranges statewide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the 18 years that the program has been in existence, dollars have been distributed to 53 different project sponsors.• Anticipate 10 to 12 new grants being awarded during the biennium

Goal	Measurable Objectives	Current Status of Measures
Enhance public involvement in decision-making	<p>Establish citizen advisory committees (CAC) in each FWP region</p> <p>Meet with CAC's at least 4 times each year</p> <p>Produce summaries of each CAC meeting and post on FWP Website within 1 week of meeting</p>	<p>All regions have CAC's</p> <p>CAC's currently meet, but at member expense; funding requested to reimburse members for travel and per diem.</p> <p>Meeting summaries are completed, distributed to members; posting on website will enhance communication</p>
Provide adequate office space and access to serve the public	<p>Maintain 7 regional offices and at least 3 area offices across the state</p> <p>Relocate the Lewistown and Havre area offices to more accessible and more cost-effective locations during the upcoming biennium.</p> <p>If the USFS decides to alienate the Thompson Falls building, successfully transfer ownership to FWP.</p>	<p>FWP currently has 7 regional and 4 area offices.</p> <p>Leases expire in FY '08; we are exploring options</p> <p>Awaiting decision from USFS on disposal of the building.</p>
Preserve the quality of river recreation that is vital to Montana citizens, visitors, and the state's tourism economy.	<p>Issue Fishing Access Site Commercial Use Permits by March 1, 2007.</p> <p>Issue Restricted Commercial Use Permits for Beaverhead, Big Hole, Blackfoot, Clark Fork, and Smith Rivers by May 1, 2007.</p> <p>Collect \$247,000 in permit revenue annually.</p> <p>Implement Special Recreation Permit System for the Madison River in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management by January 1, 2008.</p> <p>Conduct river recreation survey for Madison River by Feb. 1, 2008.</p> <p>Update Smith River Management Plan by Jan. 1, 2008.</p> <p>Develop recreation management plans for Blackfoot River and other rivers in west-central Montana by May 1, 2008.</p>	<p>FWP is developing capability to issue permits through ALS.</p> <p>FWP is developing permits, selecting a fee system, and corresponding with commercial users on these rivers.</p> <p>Permit revenue is a result of the Commercial Use Rules adopted by the FWP Commission on Dec. 14, 2006.</p> <p>FWP and BLM are developing a joint-permit system that is similar to the permit system on the Blackfoot.</p> <p>FWP is developing survey instrument.</p> <p>Existing management plan developed in 1996 and is outdated.</p> <p>FWP manages recreation and administers a Special Recreation Permit System on the Blackfoot River and public access sites via a cooperative management agreement with Bureau of Land Management; other rivers experiencing increasing use and conflict; river recreation rules have been adopted to guide the planning process.</p>

<p>Keep common species common and prevent further listing of species under the ESA</p>	<p>Submit applications for State Wildlife Grants to utilize \$1.2 million in federal funding and \$1.2 million of non-federal match by July 1, 2007</p> <p>Hire a permanent coordinator to oversee implementation of the Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy by July 1, 2007</p> <p>Develop oil and gas development recommendations by December, 2007</p> <p>Develop energy impact mitigation strategies by December, 2008</p> <p>Develop alternatives to general fund to match State Wildlife Grants by January, 2009</p>	<p>Focus areas for habitat conservation have been identified in the Milk River and upper Big Hole drainages; species conservation projects have been identified; survey and inventory needs have been identified; spending authority and matching funds are being requested from the 2007 legislature and conservation partners.</p> <p>FTE request submitted to the 2007 legislature</p> <p>Research and field visits to oil and gas development areas in CO, WY and Alberta are underway.</p> <p>Research and field visits into mitigation strategies is underway</p> <p>Options developed by other states are being explored; a broad coalition of interests is being identified to help address this issue.</p>
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